(e) the reasons for increasing dependence to import oil to meet our requirement despite availability of indigenous oil reserves?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) M/s. Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. have made 12 oil discoveries in block RJ-ON-90/1 in the State of Rajasthan. The total inplace reserve estimates for the four oil discoveries declared as "commercial" are about 1.2 billion barrels. The remaining eight discoveries are under evaluation. The operator has indicated a potential of 2.5 billion barrels from these 12 discoveries.

(c) As on 1-4-2005, 5660 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT), or 42.45 billion barrels, of inplace oil reserves have been established in the country.

(d) The average production of domestic crude oil has been 33.46 MMT (251 Million Barrels) during the last three years.

(e) India being a growing economy, the consumption of petroleum products is on the rise, as compared to the domestic production in the country. In 2004-2005, the consumption of petroleum products in the country was, estimated at 111.7 Million Metric Tonnes (provisional figures).

Profit earned by oil research companies

†2290. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that companies engaged in research, production and processing field in the oil sector are earning profits while the companies selling finished products to the retailers are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the profits earned in the first quarter of the financial year, 2005-06 by the public companies engaged in research, production and processing works and the losses incurred in the above-said period by the companies selling products in retail market?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Upstream oil PSUs namely ONGC, OIL and GAIL have registered an increase in their profit levels reflecting *inter alia* the high crude oil prices in international markets. On the other hand, the Oil Marketing Companies, such as IOCL, IBP, HPCL & BPCL, have suffered heavy under-recoveries and even net losses/ cash losses on account of retail price of petrol, diesel, kerosene (PDS) and LPG (domestic) being reined in despite the unprecedented spiraling of international prices of crude and petroleum products.

(b) and (c) The details of profits earned/losses incurred by the major Public Sector Oil companies *viz.* ONGC, OIL, GAIL, IOCL, IBP, HPCL and BPCL during the first quarter of the year 2005-06 are given in the Statement.

Statement

Profits earned/losses incurred by major Public Sector Oil Companies

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Public Sector Oil Company	Net profit after tax
ONGC	3319
OIL	333
GAIL	483

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Public Sector Oil Company	Net loss after tax
IOC	54
IBP	234
HPCL	508
BPCL	431

Availability of ethanol

†2291. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ethanol is available for mixing in petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the annual quantity of availability of this substance on an average in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.